

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 HA-05 DOE-15 DOEE-00 SOE-02
SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 MCT-02 ACDA-12 SES-02 CA-01
OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01 SCS-06 PC-01 AID-05 EB-08
TRSE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O R 101336Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 248

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 3065

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PORS IR

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SUBJ: MARTIAL LAW REPORT: MOURNING DAY SET FOR SEPT 12
IN TEHRAN: GOI PROGRAM GOES TO PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) TEHRAN 8563 (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 8555 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MINOR VIOLENCE FLARED IN TEHRAN SEPT 9 AND 10
AND ISFAHAN SEPT 10, BUT SITUATION IS QUIETING DOWN. MANY

CITIES' BAZAARS REMAIN CLOSED SINCE SEPT 7 OR 8. MARTIAL LAW OFFICERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS MORE RIGOROUSLY. NEWS PHOTOS NOW BEING CENSORED. OFFICIAL TEHRAN DEATH TOLL FOR SEPT 8 NOW SET AT 86, BUT 300 PROBABLY MORE ACCURATE. RELIGIOUS LEADERS SOMEWHAT SPLIT ON REACTION TO ARMY CRUSHING SEPT 8 DEMONSTRATION, BUT BOTH FACTIONS CRITICIZE THOSE RESPONSIBLE. GOI PRESENTED PROGRAM TO PARLIAMENT; EIGHT DEPUTIES WALKED OUT. END SUMMARY.

1. TROOPS FIRED SHOTS IN AIR NEAR TEHRAN'S BAZAAR TO BREAK UP BRAWL AND THERE WERE MINOR SCUFFLES ELSEWHERE IN CITY SEPT 9. ON SEPT 10 THERE WAS VERY SPORADIC SHOOTING IN SOUTH TEHRAN. IN CONVERSATION OVERHEARD AT A MARTIAL LAW SUBHEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN WHO SPOKE FARSI (THIS WAS UNKNOWN TO OFFICER IN CHARGE) OVERHEARD COMMANDING GENERAL DESCRIBE INCIDENT MORNING OF SEPT 10 AT AN "ECONOMIC FACULTY" (WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN TEHRAN UNIVERSITY OR NATIONAL UNIVERSITY) DURING WHICH 200 DEMONSTRATORS HAD BEEN FIRED UPON SEPT 10 RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DEAD. GENERAL WAS AGHAST AND ISSUED IMMEDIATE ORDERS FOR NORTHERN TEHRAN SECTOR TROOPS TO REVIEW STANDING ORDER TO FIRE ONLY INTO AIR OR AT PAVEMENT UNLESS DIRECTLY ATTACKED. IN OTHER TEHRAN DEVELOPMENTS, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR AFTERNOON SEPT 10 ANNOUNCED RELAXATION OF CURFEW HOURS FROM 10 P.M. INSTEAD OF 9 P.M. TO 5 A.M. RELIGIOUS LEADERS, INCLUDING
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SHARIATMADARI, CALLED FOR SEPT 11 TO BE A DAY OF MOURNING (3RD DAY AFTER SEPT 8 DEATHS). IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS IS TO BE PEACEFUL DAY OF MOURNING OR MAY INCLUDE DEMONSTRATIONS WITH POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE.

2. ISFAHAN, SHIRAZ AND TABRIZ CONSULS REPORT THOSE CITIES QUIET FOR ENTIRE WEEKEND, EXCEPT IN ISFAHAN WHERE CROWDS APPARENTLY BURNED FOUR BUILDINGS NEAR SITE OF EARLY AUGUST DISTURBANCES ON MORNING OF SEPT 10. IN MASHAD, QUIET REIGNED FOR PAST FOUR DAYS EXCEPT SEPT 8, WHEN MASS PRAYER MEETING CALLED IN DEFIANCE OF MARTIAL LAW WAS SCATTERED BY TROOPS WITH SOME SHOOTING AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

3. BAZAARS IN MOST MAJOR CITIES REMAIN CLOSED OVER WEEKEND, AND TEHRAN MEDIA REPORTED ALL QUIET ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY. MARTIAL LAW CURFEW HOURS GENERALLY BEING FOLLOWED, BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SCATTERED INCIDENTS AROUND COUNTRY, OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE. FIRE BROKE OUT IN KHORRAMSHAR WAREHOUSE SEPT 8, BUT NO CAUSE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED YET.

4. SENIOR LOCAL JOURNALIST INFORMS US MARTIAL LAW

OFFICERS HAVE TOLD HIM THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO APPLY
REGULATIONS MORE RIGOROUSLY. HE HIMSELF HAD TO GO TO
POLICE STATION TO BAIL OUT HIS PHOTOGRAPHER WHO WAS TAKING
PICTURES ILLEGALLY. SOURCE ALSO SAYS FOR FIRST TIME IN
IRAN, MARTIAL LAW CENSORSHIP IS BEING EXERCISED ON NEWS
PHOTOS GOING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES

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ARE OBJECTION TO THOSE WITH MILITARY ANGLE OR SHOWING
DESTRUCTION. SOURCE SAYS THERE IS STILL NO CENSORSHIP
ON STORIES GOING ABROAD.

5. LOCAL PRESS GENERALLY APPROVES MARTIAL LAW ON EDITORIAL

SIDE, BUT BOTH ENGLISH PAPERS CALL FOR LOOK BEYOND
MARTIAL LAW TO MEASURES GOI MUST TAKE TO SATISFY COUNTRY

IN THE LONGER TERM.

NEWS COVERAGE CONTINUES TO BE FULL
AND COMPLETE BUT NOTHING CARRIED SEPT 10 REGARDING RELIGIOUS
LEADERS' VIEWS. GOI HAS SAID 86 DEATH CERTIFICATES HAVE
BEEN ISSUED, BUT SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-
CONNECTED ONES WILLING TO ADMIT PRIVATELY THAT BEST
ESTIMATE OF TOTAL DEAD PROBABLY AROUND 250 TO 300.

6. IN STATEMENT CARRIED OUT OF PARIS BY AFP, AYATOLLAH
KHOMHINI SAYS RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS SHOW THAT THE PEOPLE
WANT THE DEPARTURE OF THE SHAH AND DISMANTLING OF HIS
REGIME. HE APPLAUDED THE ARMY FOR NOT FIRING ON THE
PEOPLE SEPT 7 AND CALLED THIS THE "DECISIVE HOUR" FOR THE
IRANIAN PEOPLE TO GET RID OF THE SHAH. AYATOLLAH
SHARIATMADARI, ALSO IN AFP STATEMENT OUT OF PARIS, CALLED
FOR "REVENGE FROM GOD" ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATHS.
SHARIATMADARI CARE-
FULLY SKIRTED ISSUE OF EXACTLY WHO WAS
TO BLAME FOR DEATHS, HOWEVER, BUT NOTED THAT "CERTAIN
ELEMENTS" ARE TRYING TO DISRUPT RELIGIOUS UNITY. HE
URGED VERY CORRECT BEHAVIOR ON MOSLEMS TO AVOID GIVING
EXCUSES TO "COLONIALISTS AND TYRANTS."
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7. GOI PRESENTED ITS PROGRAM TO MAJLES SEPT 10, AND
WILL MAKE SAME PRESENTATION TO SECTATE SEPT 11 (SUBSTANCE
WILL BE COVERED SEPT 11, BUT THERE WERE NO REAL SURPRISES).
PAN IRANIST PARTY LEADER PEZESHKPOUR AND SEVEN OTHER
DEPUTIES WALKED OUT ON PRIME MINISTER, AND GADFLY DEPUTY
BANI-AHMAD DID NOT ATTEND THE SESSION, HAVING GONE ON
A HUNGER STRIKE UNTIL THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT RESIGNS.

MAJLES SPEAKER CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRIMIN
SPOKE AND SAID DEBATE ON MOTION WILL BEGIN SEPT 12,
WITH 25 GOVERNEMENT SPEAKERS AND FOUR OPPOSITION ONES
INSCRIBED ON SCHEDULE.
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